

May 20, 2009



U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Bobby Bright

REPRESENTING THE 2ND DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

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Dear Friend,

Last week, I sponsored and passed an amendment to H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act. The bill provides local school districts resources to make their facilities more environmentally and energy efficient. While H.R. 2187 contained specific funding for schools damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it did not authorize money for other disaster-related damages. My amendment sets aside money for other school districts affected by recent natural disasters. The amendment passed by a unanimous 433-0 vote, and the overall bill passed by a 275-155 margin.

I sponsored the amendment due to the lack of additional funding for Enterprise High School following the devastating March 2007 tornado that leveled the school and left eight children dead. The new high school remains under construction and the city and school board have exhausted their options for additional revenue sources, leaving them \$9 million short. I am hopeful that Enterprise and other school districts affected by natural disasters will be able to access money in this bill once it is signed into law.

Over the past two months, our district alone has seen flooding and storms that have led to at least one federal disaster declaration. Small towns across America are simply not equipped to rebuild a mainstay in their communities like schools when they are destroyed by natural disasters. Moreover, I am a believer in the old adage 'if you're going to do something, do it right.' Upgrading schools- regardless of whether or not they were affected by natural disasters- to 21st Century and environmentally efficient standards will help create a positive and healthy learning experience for our students.

Under the bill, local school districts will be able to access grants for environmentally and energy efficient upgrades. It is estimated that Alabama alone will receive over \$105 million in funding from H.R. 2187. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration. You can view debate on the bill [here](#).

Saving Taxpayers' Money

Congress passed a very important bill last week that will reform the military procurement process and save taxpayers billions of dollars. The Weapons Acquisition System Reform Through Enhancing Technical Knowledge and Oversight Act of 2009 (WASTE-TKO) passed by a unanimous 428-0 margin. I also supported the legislation when it was in the Armed Services Committee.

It is estimated that there were nearly \$300 billion in cost

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overruns on 96 major weapons systems in the Department of Defense this year alone. WASTE-TKO will put in place new oversight systems and make the procurement process more competitive, both of which will reduce costs and save money.

As I have said before, it is my responsibility to be a wise steward of taxpayer dollars. This legislation will save the government billions of dollars and help our Defense Department work more efficiently while still keeping America safe. I will continue to look for ways that Washington can tighten its belt and root out waste, fraud, and abuse in government spending.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our offices in Montgomery at the numbers below. It is my great pleasure to serve you and the entire Second District of Alabama.

Sincerely,



Congressman Bobby Bright

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